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TAGS: [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [KISL](#) [YM](#) [DEMARCHE](#)

SUBJECT: ROYG CONDEMNNS 3/2 ATTACKS IN BAGHDAD AND KERBALA

REF: STATE 47118

1. (C) DCM contacted Presidential translator/advisor Mohamed Sudam and conveyed reftel demarche evening of 3/3. Sudam noted that the absence of FM Qirbi (in Cairo for AL Ministerial) likely accounted for lack of immediate comment from the MFA, adding that ROYG would indeed denounce "these terrible events." Sudam telephoned DCM morning of 3/4 with word that official statements had been issued via the official Saba News Agency and published in the official al-Thawra daily.

2. (U) Statement issued in English by the official Saba News Agency.

Begin text:

Sanaa, March 3 (Saba) - Yemen denounced the blasts took place on Tuesday in two Iraqi cities Karbla and Baghdad that caused the death of tens and lot of injuries. An official source at foreign ministry told Saba that Yemeni government condemned the explosion acts that killed innocent people who were performing religious rituals. The source asserted that such criminal acts not target the Iraqi people only, but also its stability, security and national unity to create horror among citizens. (End text)

3. (U) Front page editorial published in Arabic in the official daily, al-Thawra:

Begin text (excerpts) of unofficial translation:

Title: The Baghdad Massacres: Who Benefits?

The Republic of Yemen and most countries of the world condemned the bloody bombings seen day before yesterday in the cities of Kerbala and Baghdad, considering that that repugnant act that took the life of dozens of Iraqis is included in the framework of the crimes repudiated in all heavenly revelations and humanitarian principles.

In the face of the horror of that awful bloodbath, an insistent question arises in any mind: who benefits from carrying out that crime, and who possesses the capabilities and the means of planning that would enable him to carry out this sort of operation (lit: implementation), which required a high level of equipment and preparation.

(passage on danger of internal strife)

It would be a mistake for anyone to believe or imagine that internal strife, if it occurred, would have any outcome other than tragedy, for which all would pay the price.

(passage on need to rebuild Iraqi institutions)

What is required of the coalition forces is fulfillment of their commitment to hasten the process of enabling Iraqis to manage their own affairs in accordance with their free will, which will spare this people, and also the occupation forces, more losses, especially since continuation of the deterioration of security can only lead to subsequent disasters, the wounds and tragic scenes of which will linger in the minds of the young generations, and will be erased only by the return of stability, security and prosperity to this country which has suffered from wars such as no other country in the world.

Nevertheless the question will remain, who is the beneficiary behind those outrages carried out in Kerbala and Baghdad?

End text.

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